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HELENA, MONTANA



PUBLIC HEALTH IN MONTANA.

“A word to the wise.”

Last month we published a list of the communicable diseases mentioned in the law and called attention to the fact that these diseases must be reported. The death returns showed several deaths during June from tuberculosis, typhoid fever and meningitis and the reports of the health officers show that several of these cases were not reported. A note is made of each of these cases and the name of the person who signed the death certificate and prompt notice will be served if the disregard of the law is repeated. Therefore, take warning. for the law is going to be enforced. If it is a good law, to enforce it will simply strengthen it, if it is a bad law to enforce it will kill it.

This month it was necessary to send notices to several health officers that their reports had not been received on time. We call the attention of all such officers to Section 22 of the public health laws, and hereby notify you that we will simply wait for your report for July and notify the chairman of your board of health of the number of days such report is delinquent.

Disinfection.

The law provides that all disinfection shall be done in accordance with the rules and regulations of the State Board of Health. In the large majority of cases these rules are being complied with, but there are a few health officers who are using the “solid formaldehyde” and the old methods of generating gas. To such officers we call attention to the fact that the formaldehyde-permanagnate method is required. Section 23 will make interesting reading for health officers disregarding these rules.

THE BABY—Have you one? Do you feed it cow's milk? Do you get milk from a clean dairy? Do you know your dairyman's cows are not tubercular? This latter point you can not determine but if you will drive out to the dairy about milking time and see how your milk is managed you may be pleased or you may change milk-men. If you want to know that the milk comes from healthy cows demand that your milk-man present a certificate from a competent veterinarian stating that the entire herd has been tuberculin tested and found free from tuberculosis. If you and your neighbors will demand this you will get it. If you neglect these things and baby dies of “summer complaint” don't blame the Lord but blame yourself for being too indifferent to give a little attention to the food you gave baby, and admit the fact that you deliberately poisoned your baby.

WOMEN'S CLUBS are good things. More work for the prevention of tuberculosis has originated in these clubs than in any other quarter. We wish to make a suggestion to the clubs of our state. Let each club appoint a committee at repeated intervals to visit the various dairies, meat markets and creameries and report the conditions found at the next meeting of the club. Why not? Are you afraid that you will find the meat market so dirty you will not have any appetite left? Try it, make an honest report, no matter who it hits, and see the effect.

The Fourth of July is over and, from reports received up to the present, Montana escaped with comparatively few accidents. Now let us get ready for the next celebration. Do this by passing an ordinance in every town and city in the state prohibiting the sale or firing of pistols and dynamite canes. Both of these are dangerous toys. The blank cartridge pistol is converted into a ball pistol very often, to say nothing of the injuries resulting from explosions at close range. The dynamite cane is a dangerous toy. It is usually found in the hands of an "adult child" and is fired in such position with regard to proximity to persons that a great many ears are ruined by them. I do not stand for destruction of the sport of the Fourth, but let these two dangerous "toys" be prohibited by ordinances in every city and town in our state.

REPORT YOUR BIRTHS. All births must be reported to the local registrar of births and deaths within ten days after birth. A number of births were not reported in June. We have the names of parents and in many instances the name of the physician in attendance. The law is very specific in this matter and failures to report will be prosecuted in the future.

Communicable Diseases Reported for the Month of June, 1907.

Cases of smallpox were reported as follows: Cascade, 1; Custer, 2; Gallatin, 1; Granite, 1; Missoula, 4 (all in city of Missoula); Park, 12 (7 in city of Livingston); Sanders, 1; Silver Bow, 1 (from city of Butte); Yellowstone, 10 (4 from city of Billings); making a total of 33 cases as compared with a total of 11 cases for June, 1906.

Cases of diphtheria were reported as follows: Carbon, 5 (3 in city of Red Lodge); Beaverhead, 1 (in Dillon); Cascade, 7; Chouteau, 4; Dawson, 2; Deer Lodge, 1 (in Anaconda); Flathead, 1; Gallatin, 13; Lewis and Clark, 1 (in Helena); Meagher, 2; Missoula, 12 (all in city of Missoula); Park, 17 (15 in Livingston); Powell, 1; Rosebud, 2; Sanders, 3; Silver Bow, 30 (25 in Butte); Yellowstone, 10 (6 in Billings); making a total of 112 cases as against 11 cases for June, 1906.

Cases of scarlet fever were reported as follows: Cascade, 4; Choteau, 10; Deer Lodge, 6 (all in Anaconda); Silver Bow, 3 (all in Butte); Missoula, 2 (both in city of Missoula); making a total of 25 cases as against 8 cases for June, 1906.

Measles were reported as follows: Broadwater, 2; Carbon, 5 (4 in Bridger); Choteau, 11; Custer, 2; Dawson, 3; Deer Lodge, 43 (all in Anaconda); Flathead, 2; Gallatin, 1; Lewis and Clark, 3 (all in Helena); Meagher, 3; Missoula, 10 (all in city of Missoula); Park, 22 (21 in Livingston); Powell, 1; Silver Bow, 8 (all in Butte); Sweetgrass, 7; Teton, 9; Yellowstone, 20 (all in Billings); making a total of 152 cases as against 84 cases for June, 1906.

Cases of typhoid fever were reported as follows: Carbon, 2 (both in Bridger); Cascade, 3; Choteau, 3; Dawson, 2; Flathead, 1 (in town of Whitefish); Lewis and Clark, 2 (one in Helena); Missoula, 2 (both in city of Missoula); Park, 1 (in Livingston); Powell, 1; making a total of 17 cases as against 76 cases for June, 1906.

MORTALITY.

The following deaths were reported for the month of June, 1907:

| Cause of Deaths— | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Pneumonia | 27 |
| Nephritis | 13 |
| Suicide | 7 |
| Violence other than suicide | 56 |
| Organic Heart Disease..... | 16 |
| Diphtheria | 17 |
| Tuberculosis of Lungs | 26 |
| Acute Intestinal Diseases | 3 |
| Malignant Tumors | 12 |
| Meningitis | 6 |
| Typhoid Fever | 6 |
| Scarlet Fever | 2 |
| Measles | 3 |
| Whooping Cough | 1 |
| Spotted (Tick) Fever | 1 |
| Alcoholism (Acute and Chronic)..... | 10 |
| All other causes | 96 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total | 302 |
| Death rate per 100,000..... | 107.7 |
| Annual death rate per 1,000 | 12.92 |